

The regular monthly meeting of the Altoona Water Authority Board of Directors was held on Thursday, November 16, 2017 in the Board room at the Administrative Office. Chairman Schirf called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance:

Mr. Schirf, Mr. Ake, Mr. Neugebauer, Mrs. Marcinko & Mr. Strohm were present, constituting a quorum in accordance with AWA Bylaws. All AWA Board of Directors meetings are conducted in accordance with the PA Sunshine Laws. Also in attendance were Consulting Engineer, Mark Glenn, Solicitor, Alan Krier, AWA Staff, Mark Perry, Mike Sinisi, Gina DeRubeis, Ron Becher, Todd Musser and Kathy Gabella.

Public Comment:

None

Approval of the Minutes:

Mr. Neugebauer made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2017 meeting. Mrs. Marcinko seconded the motion. Mr. Schirf called the question. The motion passed with a vote of 5-0. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Unfinished Business:

1. Bellwood Dam Upgrades –The consultant (Ackenheil Engineers) is working on the geotechnical report responses from DEP and will submit it Monday, November 20, 2017. This should be the last of the DEP comments and it is hopeful the approval of the report will be received soon. This will allow the Authority to submit the permit application which will be the final step in the process of having the plans approved. When the permit is issued the Authority will be able to proceed with the financing and construction of the project.
2. Bellwood Water Treatment Plant Pilot Study – the study has been completed however the results are not finished. Tobias Nagle will give a break down and review of the results of the pilot study at January's meeting.

Requisition Approval:

Mr. Schirf asked Mrs. DeRubeis for the Financial Report and the Requisitions/Authorizations. Mrs. DeRubeis gave her report and then asked for approval of the following requisitions.

Requisitions #6 Water Division Construction Fund totaling – \$68,603.00

Requisition #2015-34 Water Division Capital Project Fund totaling - \$10,071.11

Mrs. Marcinko made a motion to approve the requisitions. Mr. Ake seconded the motion. Mr. Schirf called the question. Motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

A PennVEST application is being put together for sewer infrastructure. There still needs to be work done on the scope of the project. There is also a grant opportunity from DCED which the Authority will apply for again. This will need to be pulled from the PennVEST application which will be submitted for the February round of funding.

Each Board member met with staff individually to discuss the budget. Work is still being done on the rate structure. There was discussion in these sessions about pulling out the Capital piece of the budget. Since some of the board members were concerned with pulling it, the Capital piece will be put back in the budget with the adoption of a capital surcharge. It may be referred to as a Capital Infrastructure Renewal Fee. This will strictly be for capital improvement for both water and wastewater infrastructure. The structure for this will be based on the size of the meter.

In 2020 there will be 5.7 million dollars of water debt paid off. There will be increases during this time however it should stabilize once this debt has been paid.

New Business:

1. WEBPRESENCE – the Authority now has a new and fresh website. It is solely designed for municipal authorities. Authority staff is able to update the website and keep it relevant.

Resolutions:

None

Other Business:

The subject of lost water was discussed in that there is a difference between unaccounted for water and lost water. Firefighting and flushing are examples of lost water but both are reported. The Authority has two (2) full time leak detection specialists that survey the system for leaks. They share a correlator unit and if a leak is detected they set up and correlate to pinpoint the leak. A work order is then developed and a crew does a follow up to repair the leak.

The Vacuum Jetter truck is due to arrive the first week of December. Training on this truck will commence with A&H Equipment and with staff that is interested in operating it.

Media Questions

The board and staff addressed questions from Bill Kibler from the Altoona Mirror.

Executive Session:

None

Adjournment:

No further business was brought before the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room at the Administrative Office Building located at 900 Chestnut Avenue.



Secretary/Assistant Secretary

/klg